Vol. IV. Numb. 2.

The EXAMINER.

From Monday *May* 18, to Friday *May* 22, 1713.

Benedictis ſi certaſſet, audiſſet bene:
Quod ab ipſo allatum eſt, ſibi eſſe id rellatum putet.
De illo jam finem faciam dicundi mihi,
Peccandi cum ipſe de ſe finem non facit. Terence.

I Begin to apprehend, that *The Guardian* and I ſhall do little Service to the Publick, if we go on in Skirmiſhes againſt each other. The Difference between us was none of my Fault; who had no Deſign to lead him out of his Province, or interfere with thoſe *Low Triſles* in which he once ſhined ſo much to his Advantage; whilſt I was engag'd in *Triſles* of a larger Size, the Wiſdom, Honour, Conduct, and Characters of the *Late Miniſtry*. But his *Paper* of *Tueſday, May* the 12th, is ſo ſingular a Piece, that I cannot forbear ſome few Remarks upon it.

It is made up of a *Short Preface*, which we are to ſuppoſe written by the *Author* of the *Guardian*; after which follows a *Long Letter*, ſent to him, as he ſays, *by one* STEELE; and which in ſhort, to ſtrip it of its Cant, is a Letter from Mr. *Richard Steele* to Himſelf. The *Preface* tells us, *That this* Steele *is certainly a good ſort of a Man, and it is a thouſand Pities he does not underſtand Politicks*; but *if he is Turn'd out, my* Lady Lizard *will invite him down to her Country Houſe, where the* Guardian *will be glad of his Company, and certainly leave ſomething to one of his Children.*

It is not my Buſineſs to enquire how Fond Mr. *Steele* may be of his own Company, how much he will leave to his Children, or whether he will be Turn'd out or no; a Circumſtance, that Mankind ought to be as Indifferent to as himſelf, *who knows how to Want and to Abound*, or if he pleaſes, *to Abound and to Want*, with that Decency, which has furniſh'd ſo conſiderable and diverting a part of his private Hiſtory. But ſince he thinks fit to pronounce this *STEELE to be certainly a very good ſort of a Man*, I ſhall Examine that Propoſition, by ſetting it in view with ſome Paſſages in his following *Letter*. Mr. *Steele* ſays, *He is obliged to fly to the* Guardian *for Refuge from ſevere Uſage:* I may ask his moſt zealous Admirers, If he never fled for Refuge, as an *Author*, to any Perſon but himſelf, how little Reputation would have fallen to his Share? And whether the Refuge he now flies to, will be any Sanctuary to him, as a *Chriſtian*, a *Gentleman*, or a *Friend*? He muſt not be reflected on, becauſe he ſets his Name to his *Papers*: Does that empower him to charge *Papers*, which are publiſh'd without a *Name*, upon what Perſons he pleaſes? And then, by ſcandalous *Innuendo's*, charge thoſe Perſons with what Characters his Malice and Invention, put together, are capable of forming? I ſometime ago acquitted a *certain Gentleman* of having any ſhare in this *Paper*; yet I obſerve in three or four Paſſages of Mr. *Steele's* Letter, there are ſome malicious Glances at *That Gentleman*, which as he never deſerv'd from the World, ſo, if my Informations fail me not, he has deſerved them leaſt of all the World from Mr. *Steele*, both as an *Author*, and as *One YET* in Employment. If this be true, I ask *OLD IRON*, *Whether this STEELE be certainly a very good ſort of a Man?*

Another Paſſage in his Letter relates to *One* of the *Female Sex*, whom Mr. *Steele* is content the World ſhould think (to ſpeak in his Courtly Phraſe) *he formerly lay with*; and ſays, *He has been Rallied upon it, as one of the Sins of his Youth.* If the Fact be true, his manner of Remembring and Talking of it does ill become one, who has ſo long pretended to advance the Intereſt of *Vertue* and *Religion*. If it be falſe; and by this time, I preſume, his Memory and Conſcience have been ſatisfied that it is Falſe, in ſpite of his Vanity and looſe Imagination; then he has endeavour'd to Reſcue *one Innocent Lady* by Blaſting *another*; and in ſo negligent a manner, as if he were ſenſible of the little Expence this piece of Scandal coſt him, the loſs only of his Honour, Vertue and Gratitude. Therefore I here repeat the Queſtion, *Whether* the Guardian *thinks Mr.* Steele *a very good ſort of a Man?* And whether Lady *Lizard* will hold her Reſolution of inviting him down to her Houſe? I, who will never be behind the *Guardian* in Proofs of an entire Deference for the fair Sex, find my ſelf inclined to Caution that *Good Lady* and her *Daughters*, againſt a Man, who makes ſo eaſie a Tranſition from *Talking* to *Lying* with a Woman, who has ſuch Maſters of *Rallery* to his *Friends*, and *the Sins of whoſe Youth* are much the brighteſt Part of his Character. I ſpeak not this with a Rival's Reſentment, nor out of any Inclination to comply with that guilty Neceſſity I ſeem to be put under, of giving Lady *Lizard*, or any other *Lady* who may think it worth her while to be Jealous of him, ſuch convincing Proofs of my Sex, as may fully ſatisfie them, *That Mr.* Steele *never* could *lie with the* Examiner.

Certainly the Preſs never ſtood more in need of Purging, and the Dregs of Ribaldry and Vice are run as low as can be imagin'd: Yet I do not remember to have met with any *Modern*, ſo abandoned to Modeſty and good Manners, as to Glory in publiſhing his own lewd Actions, and point at the Perſon who was his Partner in the Guilt. Neither do I think this Sort of Vanity ſo very Taking and Decent, as to deſerve to be introduced under the Name of *Steele*, and by his Authority. Among the Heroes he has formerly celebrated, there are many, who accept the Conveniences of a *Short Pipe* and a *Centry Box*, with as good a Grace as ſome Self-ſufficient Philoſophers do their *Wants* and *Abundance*; and by treating the Ladies of their Acquaintance with a more agreeable *Tendreſs*, have merited, in ſome Meaſure, to be much nearer the Court than than this Gentleman: Had this Paſſage been read to any of them, I am confident they would have reſented it with a generous Warmth, becoming their Station and Livery. For my own Part, I can only aſſure the World, that it excites Pity in me rather than Pride, to ſee a Fatality deſcend on all thoſe, who would make a Merit by attacking the *Examiner*; the Goodneſs of whoſe Cauſe forces the ſprightlieſt Wit and beſt Senſe, when

when advanced againſt him, to Recoil upon his Adverſaries; and lays them flat on a Level with the *Wretches of the Week*, whoſe Works the *Examiner* freely owns he has now and then been Guilty of *Reading*, but utterly denies he was ever yet tempted to anſwer; and in their unmerciful Commendations the *Guardian* muſt expect to meet a conſiderable Part of his *Penance*.

The Submiſſions I lately made to a Perſon I am not allow'd to call an *Offended Beauty*, were, I thought, ſufficient to attone, not for the *Falſhood*, but the *Severity* of a *Former Examiner*; and I have now reaſon to value my ſelf upon a Merit which the *Guardian* has a mind to take from me: But I freely own, any handſome Acknowledgment from *that Family*, ſuch as I Publiſhed ſome Days ago, will at any time oblige me to retract a too ſucceſsful *Paper*; and ſtrict Juſtice muſt ſometimes give Place to a Tenderneſs in my Nature, as independent of the *Guardian*'s Reproofs, as it is ſuperior to Mr. *Steele*'s Example. I therefore diſmiſs that Matter to utter Oblivion; and in the mean time accept of this Gentleman's *Sorrow* for calling me *Miſcreant*, notwithſtanding the weakneſs of his Excuſe, ſo contrary to a true Judgment of the Uſe of Words; for by his Rule, one might call an honeſt Man *Knave* and *Villain*, upon the ſingle Evidence of *Antient Etimology*.

I gave a Reaſon for defending my Country againſt any Invaders, tho' of the higheſt Station, which becauſe it is *Cicero*'s, and a good one, I rather ſhelter my ſelf under, than under any Precedent ſet me by Mr. *Steele*; and I only mention'd his Example, as an Argument why he, of all Men, ought not to accuſe me, who had broke his own Maxim for Trifles, in which his Country had no manner of Concern; and by entring into Party-Diſputes, violated the moſt ſolemn repeated Promiſes, and that *Perfect Neutrality* he had engag'd to maintain. As a Proof that I did not wrong him, he now openly takes upon himſelf *Downs*'s Letter, by wiſhing the *Rallery* (as he calls it) were his own; he tacitly admits the Characters of *Hanno* and *Powel*, but pretends to forget *Don Diego*, who is ſtill to be found in the *Firſt Volume* of *Tatlers*, where I leave him to as much Oblivion as that Work is capable of. He would inſinuate, that *Timon* and *Polypragmon* are general Characters, and ſtand for a whole *Species*, or as he quaintly words it, *for Knights of the Shire*. If this be true, why did he not before now, ſilence the induſtrious Clamours of his Party, who, both in *Print* and *Publick Converſation*, apply'd thoſe Characters to Perſons of the firſt Rank, tho' without any regard to the Rules of Reſemblance? However, he muſt permit me to take the ſame advantage of his *Contrition* that he does of mine, and to value my ſelf for *producing any Remorſe in him*, and procuring *a Reparation for offended Innocence*, which, tho' late, may perhaps be ſufficient to wipe off a Scandal, that was at firſt Contemptible. Only I would put him in mind, that it ill became him, amidſt his Penitential Qualms, to treat a *Great Lady*, in high Favour with the *Queen*, in ſo ſlighting and indecent a manner; whoſe Humility and Greatneſs of Soul, Fidelity and Gratitude to *Her Majeſty*, with all thoſe Vertues which juſtify an *Honeſt Ambition*, have, next to the *Royal Favour*, made Her a better Title to the Honours She enjoys and adorns, than the known Defects of *Her Predeceſſor* could do to an Ambition of another kind, as capricious in its Riſe, as it was unlimited in its Purſuits and Deſires.

The Contempt of Riches Mr. *Steele* would affect, his open Defiance of the *Preſent Miniſtry*, his ſetting himſelf up as a declar'd Champion for the *Laſt*, and taking upon him to defend the *Bravery*, *Wiſdom*, and *Honeſty* of the *General for Life*, and *his Adherents*, which I readily grant have *made* France *tremble* as well as *Britain*; are ſo many Marks of a deſperate Man, who is conſcious of having gone ſuch Lengths as can never be forgiven: Or elſe he entertains imaginary Views of ſome *Future Changes*, which, for his own and our Country's Good, I heartily hope he will never ſee. But if he really thinks it will be any Advantage to him as a *Taker in of Parcels*, and a *Common Fatherer* of *Stray Fragments*, to break through the *Neutral State*; if, as he ſeems to inſinuate in *Another Paper* of *May* the 15th, the *Examiner* may be ever now and then neceſſary to rouze him in his *Sleepy Intervals*; if he imagines it may be of uſe to his Patrons, to divert the *Examiner* from any Enquiries, which may render them uneaſie; he is free to Liſt himſelf in that Service whenever he pleaſes. For I always had that impartial regard for the *Late Miniſtry*, as to wiſh them a Champion, who might ſhew us their whole Strength at once; and for Encouragement to the Undertaker, I venture to own, That a Man of his Abilities may be as neceſſary to *Defend*, as a Man of his Principles is to *Adorn* that *Party*. I am only concerned he ſhould let things run to ſuch a head, that it now ſeems paſt the Power, even of his excellent Sophiſtry and Banter, to retrieve them. I ſuppoſe it will not, at this time of Day, be required of me, that I ſhould join with Mr. *Steele* in his Couragious Defiance of all *Terrors* and *Perſonal Apprehenſions*: The *Examiner* was never yet tax'd with Cowardice. Let him therefore give in the Liſt of his *Paragons*; and how grateful ſoever he may be, on account of his having *Dedicated* to them; I ſhall not fail, for a more publick Reaſon, to juſtify the diſgrace they lie under, by the Juſtice of *Her Majeſty*, with the concurrent Voice of *Her Parliament*, and ſo much to the Satisfaction and Joy of *Her People*.

ADVERTISEMENT.

*** Next Tueſday will be Publiſhed, and ſo continued every *Tueſday*, *Thurſday* and *Saturday*, a Paper, Entituled, *MERCATOR*: Or, *Commerce Retriev'd*; being, *Conſiderations on the State of the* Britiſh Trade; particularly as it reſpects *Holland*, *Flanders* and the *Dutch Barrier*; the Trade to and from *France*, the Trade to *Portugal*, to *Spain*, and the *Weſt-Indies*, and the Fiſheries of *Newfound-land*, and *Nova Scotia*: With other Matters and Advantages accruing to *Great Britain* by the Treaties of *Peace* and *Commerce*, lately concluded at *Utrecht*. The whole being Founded upon juſt *Authorities*, faithfully Collected from Authentick Papers; and now made Publick for General Information. Printed for *Benj. Tooke* at the *Temple-gate*, and *John Barber* on *Lambeth-hill*, 1713.

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